aircraft were executed on 15th December, 2000. As per the contract the aircraft were to be delivered from last week <5f December, 2000 till last week of January, 2001.

The deliveries of B-737-200 aircraft, however, got delayed due to the problems at the end of lessor. The lessors have now, informed Indian Airlines that the problems at their end have been sorted out and the first aircraft is expected to be delivered in the near future.

(d) Yes, Sir. An alternative younger aircraft in place of the older aircraft has been offered.

(e) In response to the tender issued in March, 2000 for lease of A-320 and B-737-300/400 aircraft, only one offer was received which did not meet the tender terms.

Land dispute cases pending with AAI

† 545. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of land dispute are lying pending with the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the area-wise details thereof as on 1st January, 2001;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to resolve these disputes with the concerned parties; and

(d) whether it has been decided to constitute a particular Department for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details in this regard are being collected.

(c) All land dispute cases which are pending in various Law Courts are being pursued vigorously by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for final settlement. The entire task is a time consuming
procedure as it involves private parties and State Government/Local Bodies.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir. An exclusive Department of Land Management has been established in AAI for monitoring/review of all land allotment and land dispute cases.

Entry of foreign airlines in domestic aviation

546. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers (GoM) has recommended entry of foreign airlines in domestic aviation and allowing 49 per cent foreign direct investment in Civil Aviation Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the meeting held on 11.1.2001, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had, *inter-alia*, recommended FDI upto 49% in the civil aviation sector on the automatic route and permission to foreign airlines to participate in the joint ventures subject to sectoral guidelines of the Civil Aviation Ministry. However, in its meeting held on 9.2.2001 to review some of the recommendations made in the earlier meeting held on 11.1.2001, GoM on FDI, *inter-alia*, decided not to recommended change in the existing policy of domestic air transport sector which permits upto 40% foreign equity and upto 100% Non Resident Indian (NRI)/ Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB) equity participation but prohibits direct or indirect foreign airlines equity.

Upgradation of Bhubaneswar airport

547. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports where facilities for handling the export and import of cargo are available;

(b) whether Government propose to provide Cargo handling facilities at Bhubaneswar airport;

(c) if so, by when; and